

NC ECHO
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Newsletter

Spring NC ECHO Digitization Institutes Held in Raleigh

Special points of interest:

- NC ECHO Digitization Institutes help train special collections professionals from around the state
- NC ECHO welcomes new Project Manager Peggy Schaeffer, p.3

NC ECHO held two week-long Digitization Institutes at the State Library in Raleigh this spring—March 1-5 and 22-26, 2004. These Institutes focused on giving participants a sound knowledge base for the management of a digitization program as well as giving them instruction on the fundamentals of scanning, web page design, and metadata creation.

Twelve librarians participated in each Institute. Twenty-four public servants now possess the basic skills and information they need to successfully administer a digitization program for special collections in their libraries.

David Olson, Deputy Secretary of Arts and Libraries for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, was an inspirational guest speaker on the first day of each institute, and his remarks set the tone for the rest of each week. Mr. Olson, in his inimitable style, addressed the issue of why we in the cultural heritage community are undertaking digital projects and embracing this technology in

the first place. He shared his personal experiences as former long-time State Archivist and illuminated the core reason for “going digital” — reaching our audiences and sharing the resources we have worked so hard to save for posterity. Mr. Olson’s talk brilliantly illustrated the ideas that are the foundation of NC ECHO —cultural institutions exist to collect and make available to the public their unique resources; the Internet is the way present generations seek information and the Internet provides an unprecedented opportunity for resource sharing; therefore, it is through the Internet that we as cultural heritage professionals will be able to best share what we have to offer.

Participants embarked on their journey into digitization on the right foot and departed the institutes with a strong knowledge and thorough understanding of the digitization process thanks to Mr. Olson and the efforts of all the institute



Digitization Institute 4 participants at the State Capitol. Back row (l-r): Alice Soles, Martha Turney, Ann Wright, Carter Cue, Lydia Davis; Front row (l-r): Anne Gometz, Jerry Carroll, Cheryl McLean, Arleen Fields, Nancy Garner, Charlie Lackey

instructors — Jan Blodgett, Davidson College Archivist; Lynn Eaton, RBMSC Library, Duke University; Druscie Simpson, Information Technology Branch, State Archives; and Katherine Wisser, NC ECHO Metadata Coordinator. The next NC ECHO Digitization Institute will be in September of this year.

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ASCWG Chair David Ferriero Accepts Prestigious Position in New York City

David Ferriero, Chair of NC ECHO's advisory group and currently the Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs at Duke University, has been named the Andrew W. Mellon Director and Chief Executive of The Research Libraries at New York Public Library. David Ferriero was integral in forming the ASCWG

and shaping the NC ECHO project from its inception. NC ECHO is truly fortunate to have enjoyed his expertise and wise council for as long as we have, and the NC ECHO staff will greatly miss his superior guidance. It is with great sadness that we wish him well in his new position. Our loss is New York's gain.

Kim Cumber



David S. Ferriero

Metadata Matters



Kathy Wisser, NC ECHO Metadata Coordinator, on a site visit to Alamance Battleground State Historic Site

“NC-TEI
will look at
the Text
Encoding
Initiative...”

Upcoming events in the world of NC ECHO metadata include the launching of the first newly created EAD Workshop Suite. This includes the EAD Basic tagging workshop that NC ECHO has offered since 2002. This workshop has been streamlined to focus on EAD encoding with plenty of hands-on instruction. The tagging workshop will be followed by EAD Administration, a one-day workshop that focuses on the administration of an EAD program. The administration workshop will include such topics as appropriateness for an institution to begin an EAD program, workflow, staffing and training, implications of interpretation of EAD for an institution and the identification of and formation of boilerplate text in EAD documents. The next workshop in the Suite focuses on the technological aspects of EAD, including file management, NoteTab, software clip library programming, and an introduction to XSL. The Suite concludes with a workshop on advanced applications of tagging for EAD, including advanced element concepts, a discussion of attributes, linking elements, and digital archival objects. Each workshop can be taken independently or participants are welcome to attend the entire Suite. Workshops are limited to 25 people each, so register early. For more information, see: <http://www.ncecho.org/>.

The North Carolina Dublin Core has moved into the Beta version of its web template (<http://www.ncecho.org/ncdc/template.html>). We conducted formal usability tests in April, with the help of volunteers from the State Library, the State Archives, North Carolina Museum of History, and Historic Sites. Results from this test should solidify the Help documentation and highlight any needed improvements to the template before the release of Version 1.0 this summer. NCDC continues to look ahead, and the group will meet at the end of the summer to discuss future endeavors.

This summer will also be the start of a few new initiatives on the metadata front for NC ECHO. The first, NC-TEI will look at the Text Encoding Initiative and its application to provide online guidance, workshops, and other support for institutions interested in implementing the metadata standard for their online resources. Several NC ECHO partner institutions have already used TEI in their digital projects so there should be a great deal of previous experience to draw on for this group. NC Visual Resources will look at metadata structures primarily for describing photographic collections, but may include other visual materials as well. This group will explore existing standards and provide best practice guidelines for those institutions facing metadata decisions for their collections. Anyone interested in participating in these working groups should contact me at: katherine.wisser@duke.edu.

Finally, I want to mention two exciting new metadata standards that are currently being explored. DACS, *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*, developed by the Society of American Archivists provides a much-needed content standard for archivists to describe their materials. This is not a format-specific standard but should provide guidance on how to descriptively structure information in the way that *Archives*, *Personal Papers*, and *Manuscripts* by Steve Hensen has done for MARC cataloging of archival materials in the past. DACS was released for review this month (<http://www.archivists.org/DACS.pdf>) and is expected to be published by SAA for the annual meeting in August. EAC, Encoded Archival Context, is a companion encoding language for authority control for archival information. This is an exciting standard developed by the creator of EAD, Daniel Pitti in collaboration with Per-Gunnar Ottosson of the National Archives of Sweden. EAC will help make connections between the archival collection and the creators while developing an intricate relationship structure to provide researchers with related contextual structures for original materials reflecting our cultural heritage. It is currently in beta at: <http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/eac/>.

Don't forget that I am available for metadata consultations to help you with any and all metadata needs!

Katherine M. Wisser
NC ECHO Metadata Coordinator

New NC ECHO Project Manager



NC ECHO's new Project Manager Peggy Schaeffer (right) discusses special collections at Alamance Community College with Scott Family Librarian Peggy Boswell

The State Library is pleased to announce the appointment of Peggy Schaeffer as the new State Library Consultant for Access Programs and NC ECHO Project Manager. Peggy comes to this position from a long career in special libraries and digitization, most recently having directed the NC Health Information Project at UNC-Chapel Hill — www.nchealthinfo.org.

After studying Medieval History at the University of Wisconsin Madison and Edinburgh University in Scotland, she received her Masters in Library Science from Florida State University in Tallahassee. An accomplished professional, Peggy has held offices in the North Carolina Chapter of the Special Library Association and has written for *Public Libraries*, *Special Libraries*, and *Medical Reference Services Quarterly* among other distinguished publications.

Spotlight

Graham Historical Museum Graham, NC (Alamance County)

The Graham Historical Museum seeks to share the history of Graham, North Carolina, through the collection, preservation, and display of artifacts, documents, photographs, ephemera, and other items pertaining to Graham and its citizens past and present. The museum is located in Graham's historic first fire station and municipal building and houses one of Graham's first fire trucks. Other collections of particular interest include early Graham town records and material on Graham natives Tom Zachary, 1930's baseball star, and Jeanne Swanner Robertson, Miss North Carolina 1963.

Graham Historical Museum is in Graham's old municipal building, which housed the fire station on the ground floor and the courthouse and court offices on the second floor. While the museum is not a firehouse museum, the museum derives a great deal of its support from the present fire department. Jerry Peterman, who is in charge of the museum, is a fireman, and many of the members of the historical society are fireman and museum volunteers.

The main floor exhibits contain fascinating displays of historical artifacts from every era of Graham's existence – Elon College's first printing press (Elon was founded in Graham at the Providence Church in the 1870's); a Civil War Albright rifle; the fire truck; a pair of traditional Chinese shoes worn by a Chinese man who ran a laundry in Graham around the turn of the century; a "personal" liquor still donated by an anonymous Graham family; an old Johnston bar from a local textile mill; old Graham town records such as water mainline

maps; and a 1964 yearbook from Graham's African American high school signed by football great Jim Brown who visited the school that year to name only a smattering of what is there.

If the museum stopped at the ground floor, it would be impressive enough for a small town history museum, but a really unique treat can be found here just upstairs in the old courtroom/office area. This is where Jeanne Robertson's collection is housed and exhibited, and what a neat collection this is! The semi-permanent exhibit is called "Behind Her All The Way" and celebrates the people and institutions of Graham and how they came together to support her.

Jeanne Swanner was a college student in 1963 when she competed in the Miss North Carolina pageant. The whole town of Graham got excited and got behind her, and she won the title. When she went on to compete in Miss America, over 400 Graham citizens traveled to Atlantic City to cheer for her. Jeanne did not win the Miss America crown but was voted Miss Congeniality by the highest margin of votes in pageant history!

The "Behind Her All The Way" exhibit and Jeanne Swanner Robertson Collection is massive and contains a huge number of newspaper articles, pageant ephemera (!), personal artifacts including pageant gowns and dresses (many made of corduroy – the latest, most popular fabric made in the Alamance County Cone Mills), crowns, jewelry, shoes, handbags, a large number of photographs including snapshots taken by various Graham citizens on their trip to Atlantic City, and volumes of scrapbooks Jeanne's family assembled as she went through the pageant process. It is an impressive body of material, and the Graham Historical Museum has capitalized on this material in a unique and ambitious way. They are looking at it in terms of life in a southern small town in

the early 1960's! The collection – especially the newspapers and the photographs – tell the story of a past that has not really been covered in any meaningful way in North Carolina and possibly has not been covered well anywhere. The 1960's nationally have 'been done' but have been done in terms of the upheavals of the '60's – race relations, feminism, rock and roll, JFK, Vietnam, etc.... The 1963 of New York, LA, San Francisco, or Birmingham was not the 1963 of small town southern America. Graham, NC, in 1963 still reflected much of the mentality associated with 1950's America yet exhibited evidence that the changing nature of the world was creeping in and having effect. The innocence and hopefulness of the post-WWII era is still strong in 1963 Graham (as is the nearly wholesale acceptance of the backward ideas of segregation and sexism) although cracks are evident. The Jeanne Swanner Robertson Collection provides a snapshot of this – a glimpse of a society clinging to a past that much of the rest of the country has abandoned.

The upper floor of the museum building is remarkably spacious, and Ms. Robertson's collection only takes up a portion of this area. Future plans for the rest of the space include a research room and a stack area for manuscript material and genealogical resources! Plans are already underway to accomplish these goals.

NC ECHO enthusiastically encourages our readers to visit this wonderful small town treasure. The Graham Historical Museum is open 1:30-5:00pm on Sundays and by appointment. Call Jerry Peterman at (336) 513-4773 or 226-4794 for information.

Kim Cumber



Jeanne Swanner Robertson with part of the "Behind Her All The Way" exhibit



Miss North Carolina 1963
Jeanne Swanner of Graham, NC

Mark Your Calendars!

June 7-11, 2004
EAD Workshop
Suite, ECU

June 14-17, 2004
Chatham Site Visits

June 18, 2004
Albemarle Region
Summary Meeting
Windsor, NC

July 26-30, 2004
Bladen and Robeson
Site Visits

**For more
information, go to
www.ncecho.org**

NC ECHO Project Archivist Kim Cumber gives keynote address at Southern Archives Conference (SAC) in Jackson, Mississippi

I traveled to Jackson, Mississippi, in April of this year at the invitation of the Southern Archives Conference (SAC). SAC is a loose consortium of professional archives associations from the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. SAC meets every two years for three-days of lectures, discussions, presentations, tours, and

networking. Several of the states in SAC have recently undertaken statewide, regional, or topic-based digitization projects and have a keen interest in learning about the digitization initiatives of other states and areas. My long-time friend and archival colleague, Kathy Smith at Vanderbilt University Archives, asked me to speak to SAC about the NC ECHO Project and distributed model. My talk was reportedly

well-received and focused on NC ECHO's efforts to identify and survey the collections and collecting agents in the state and to encourage the use of best practices in both traditional and technology-based special collections work. Highlights of the presentation included slides of some of the more interesting sites and people "discovered" in North Carolina and the sharing of some of our successes. *Kim Cumber*

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North Carolina ECHO, *Exploring Cultural Heritage Online*, is the World Wide Web's doorway to the special collections of North Carolina's libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites. Supported with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, this innovative project seeks to build a state-wide framework for digitization in order to facilitate comprehensive access to the holdings of North Carolina's cultural institutions.

NC ECHO Project Vision – All of North Carolina's cultural institutions work together to make the state's unique cultural and historical resources accessible for the education and enjoyment of people of all ages in the state, the nation, and the world.

NC ECHO Project Purpose – The NC ECHO portal provides a single point of entry for the citizens of North Carolina to the unique resources of North Carolina's cultural institutions in order to enhance education and learning.

Criteria for Inclusion in the NC ECHO project – Any cultural institution (library, archive, museum, historic site, or organization), which maintains a permanent, non-living collection of unique materials held for research and/or exhibit purposes and open for the use of the public will be surveyed. Denominational/associational collections will be surveyed, but individual church collections will not. Art museums will be surveyed but galleries will not. Zoos, arboreta, and parks will not be surveyed unless as a part of their mission they hold collections as described above.

Through a comprehensive needs assessment and opinion survey, site visits, consultations, workshops, and grant programs, NC ECHO encourages cooperation and collaboration among differing types of cultural institutions and among institutions of varying levels of technological and professional expertise. It is NC ECHO's belief that by working together North Carolina's cultural institutions can achieve greater successes and can do more good than they can by working alone.

The Access to Special Collections Working Group (ASCWG)—NC ECHO's Advisory Board

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Vice Provost for Library Affairs, Perkins
Library, Duke University

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chian State University

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formation Technologies, State Library of
North Carolina



Druscie Simpson teaching
scanning at NC ECHO's
Digitization Institute